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Immunodominance of seven regions of a major allergen, Cry j 2, of Japanese cedar pollen for T-cell immunity.

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Hashiguchi S, Hino K, Taniguchi Y, Kurimoto M, Fukuda K, Ohyama M, Fujiyoshi T, Sonoda S, Nishimura Y, Yamada G, Sugimura K.

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The immunodominant regions of the Japanese cedar pollen allergen Cry j 2 for T-cell immunity were determined with whole peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBL) derived from seven allergic patients and three nonallergic subjects. Cry j 2-stimulated T-cell proliferation was inhibited by anti-HLA-DR, but not by anti-HLA-DQ antibody, indicating that the responding T cells recognized the allergen peptides associated with HLA-DR molecules. It was found that seven regions of Cry j 2, i.e., regions corresponding to amino acid numbers 1-26, 70-84, 151-167, 187-203, 252-279, 283-314, and 345-362, were immunodominant for T-cell proliferation. Thus, Cry j 2 bears a limited number of immunodominant regions despite polymorphic features of HLA-DR in the immune system. This suggests the possibility of molecularly designing Cry j 2 antagonists that could downregulate allergic reactions to Japanese cedar pollen.

PMID: 8899114 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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